

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: MARR, CA

SUBJ: CANADIAN RESERVE OFFICER SUPPORTS NORAD

1. TORONTO GLOBE AND MIAL ON JANUARY 29 PUBLISHED ARTICLE ENTITLED "ROHMER SAYS NORAD VITAL FOR INDEPENDENCE."

2. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, CANADA'S SENIOR AIR RESERVE OFFICER, RICHARD ROHMER, SAID IN AN ADDRESS TO ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION AT FORT YORK THAT CANADA'S WITHDRAWAL FROM NORAD WOULD BE A MAJOR STEP TOWARDS LOSS OF SOVEREIGNTY. ACCORDING TO REPORT ROHMER SAID THAT ALTHOUGH CANADA'S PARTICIPATION IN NORAD IS MINOR, IT IS AN IMPORTANT SYMBOL AND THAT IF CANADA PULLED OUT, THE AIR DEFENSE OF CANADA WOULD PASS TOTALLY INTO US HANDS." "FOR ANY CANADIAN WHO BELIEVES STRONGLY IN HIS COUNTRY, WHO IS A PATRIOT -- AND THAT IS MY DEFINITION OF A NATIONALIST -- THE TOTAL ASSUMPTION OF THE AIR DEFENSE OF CANADA BY THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE UNTHINKABLE AS WELL AS INTOLERABLE."

3. APPARENTLY ROHMER ALSO STRESSED THE DANGER OF ASSUMING THAT BECAUSE THERE IS NO IMMEDIATE THREAT OF WAR, THERE IS NO NEED FOR THE MILITARY. UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, "...THE PRECARIOUS WORLD

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MILITARY BALANCE WILL THEN TIP TOWARDS SOVIET BLOC

SUPREMACY AND WITH IT WILL COME A REAL RISK OF A
THIRD WORLD WAR."

4. ROHMER CONCLUDED HIS REMARKS BY MAKING A STRONG
PLEA TO CONTINUE RESERVE MILITARY TRAINING IN CANADA.
AFTER PRAISING THE WORK OF RESERVE FORCES AND CITING
THEIR COMPARATIVE LOW COST, ROHMER CONCLUDED THAT
DOLLARS SPENT ON THE RESERVES "ARE WELL SPENT."

5. COMMENT: ROHMER IS WELL-KNOWN NATIONALIST CRITICS OF
US (HAVING WRITTEN TWO WIDELY READ NOVELS ON THAT THEME).
HIS ESPOUSAL OF NATIONALIST CASE FOR CANADIAN
CONTINUATION IN NORAD TENDS TO SPIKE GUNS OF ANY
POTENTIAL NATIOANLIST OPPONENTS OF NEW NORAD AGREEMENT.
PORTER

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